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A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$1.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual)	\$5.00
Annual (family)	\$8.00
Annual (sustaining)	\$25.00
Life Membership	\$100.00
Annual (Institutional)	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	



Mr. W. J. Barrow

(Courtesy: Wendell Powell, Richmond, Va.)

THE BARROW METHOD OF RESTORING DETERIORATED DOCUMENTS

By Ruth Gibbs Barrow

The restoration of deteriorated documents by deacidification and lamination with cellulose acetate film and tissue has been found to be the most stable and lasting method of preservation. Through its two distinct but mutually dependent phases of deacidification and lamination the Barrow process stops and prevents further deterioration as well as adds strength and use to the manuscripts. In order to best understand the Barrow process of deacidification and lamination, it is necessary for one to also have an understanding of the causes of document deterioration. The major factor and governing element in the process of deterioration is the amount of acidity present in the document which causes a breakdown of the paper fibers.

The causes of acidity in documents are many, but an obvious and major cause is the method by which the paper is manufactured. Sizing and bleaching are two processes in the manufacturing of paper which can cause the inherent defect of acidity. The use of alum (KAISO₄) in the sizing of some seventeenth and eighteenth century papers found in Virginia resulted in a present day pH of around 4. pH is a measure of acidity. pH 1 is extremely acid, pH 7 is neutral, pH 14 is extremely alkaline. The chemical used in bleaching the rags to manufacture paper quite often is found to be the cause of acidity. Through the use of Chlorine as a bleaching agent and poor washing of pulp, acidity and deterioration have resulted.

Outside of inherent defects of the paper causing acidity, the next source is from contamination of the paper by some other material. The logical culprit and major outside contaminator is the ink which is used upon the paper. A frequent problem with manuscripts of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries has been the use of iron gall writing ink. When this ink was made, sulphuric acid was formed from the resulting chemical interaction of the iron of the copperas and the acids of the gall nut, gallic and tanic. The acidity of the ink varied depending upon the concentration of the different ingredients used in the formulae. In some cases relatively little acidity resulted,

while in others the acidity was great enough to eat holes in the paper.

Another cause of acidity from outside contamination is poor condition of storage. The National Bureau of Standards, as well as other laboratories, has found that sulphur dioxide, which occurs in the air of many cities, increases the acidity of paper and causes embrittlement. As a result many archives and libraries have installed expensive equipment to eliminate this acidity from their storage areas. Among other possible sources of increase in acidity during storage are sunlight, dust and impurities deposited by the hands.

Acidity, if allowed to remain, not only continues the destruction of the paper but also contaminates and weakens any cellulosic material used to strengthen it. Obviously some non-injurious method of neutralizing the acid seems to be called for when restoration is required for a deteriorated manuscript. Ironically, some papers manufactured in the seventeenth and eighteenth century escaped the acidity of the alum sizing because of the bleaching of the pulp with lye made from wood ashes. The calcium and magnesium salts of the wood ashes, probably carbonates and phosphates, were not completely washed out. Their alkaline compounds acted as a buffer and neutralized the acidity of the alum sizing.

From this one can understand that in order for any method of restoration to be successful, the principal function should be to render inert and acidic impurities of the document which caused the deterioration. Documents should be treated for acidity before restoration by any method is attempted and the restoration process itself should be free of any factors that would tend to renew their condition. The Barrow process accomplishes the first objective through deacidification and the second by lamination.

It is necessary to deacidify deteriorated documents in order to assure their preservation and it is also advantageous to deacidify acidic documents before they reach a weakened condition. It is difficult to make recommendations for specific materials without examining them, but nearly all manuscripts written since 1700 and most printed books published since 1860 are more acidic than is compatible with good longevity. The custodian should note that, in general, failures such as cracks, tears, etc. in the leaves do not ordinarily occur from use until the paper reaches a very weakened condition which is nearly always due to acidity.

The deacidification method in the Barrow process consists of placing the document to be treated between sections of specially constructed bronze screens to prevent damage and passing it through two solutions. The first is a solution of calcium hydroxide which effectively neutralizes the acid. The second is a solution of calcium bicarbonate which carbonates the excess hydroxide and precipitates calcium carbonate into the fibers of the paper. After treatment the document is air dried in a rack constructed for this purpose. The precipitated calcium carbonate not only has a stabilizing effect upon the cellulose fiber but also acts as a buffer against the absorption of any acid at a later time.

After the document has been deacidified, if in poor condition, cracks, tears, etc., it should be laminated to give it additional strength. The lamination process consists of placing the document between two sheets of cellulose acetate film and tissue. The document is then laid in a moulding form made of thin cardboard lined with teflon which acts as a conveyor during the process of lamination. It is then run through our laminator which consists of two electrically heated thermostatically controlled metal plates for preheating the material and two revolving calendar rolls with a pressure range from 600 to 800 pounds per square inch to supply the necessary compression. The entire process takes about thirty-five seconds. After the document is sealed in the film it is pressed between cardboard overnight to eliminate any tendency to curl that might be caused by the loss of moisture in heating. The major advantages of this process are that no artificial cooling is required and that pressure by rollers eliminates the entrapment of air between the document and the film.

While the Barrow process restores and preserves the document to a degree far superior to any other method, it is not the final solution to the problem of deteriorating documents and crumbling manuscripts. The fight against document deterioration must be at many levels. For documents of the past we must seek for early restoration as well as research into better methods of restoration. For documents of the future we must be made aware of the need for an acid free paper for documents of value. Perhaps the concerted effort of record custodians to encourage the use of permanent/durable type papers in modern documents will alleviate this problem for future generations.

Restored Records of Augusta County, Virginia, Clerk's Office,
Staunton, Virginia by the W. J. Barrow Restoration Shop,
Inc.

Deed Book 2, restored by the Virginia State Society, DAR, 1934,
in honor of Beverley Manor and Colonel Thomas Hughart
Chapters.

— { Will Book 1.

— { Will Book 1-A, restored by Beverley Manor Chapter, DAR, 1963.

— Will Book 2, restored by Beverley Manor Chapter, DAR, 1938.

X Minister's Returns of Marriages, 1813-1846, Colonel Thomas
Hughart Chapter, 1954.

X Augusta County Court Martial Book, 1756-1796, 1807-1812,
Colonel Thomas Hughart Chapter, 1958.

X Augusta County Court Order Book #1, 1745-1747, Colonel
Thomas Hughart Chapter, 1964.

X Augusta County Minute Books: 1745-1763, 4 volumes, Colonel
Thomas Hughart Chapter, DAR, 1966-1970.

X Augusta County Court of Claims, 1782-1785, Colonel Thomas
Hughart Chapter, DAR, 1971.

2nd Augusta County Marriage Bonds, 1785-~~1813~~¹⁸¹⁴, ~~12~~¹⁴ volumes com-
pleted, Beverley Manor Chapter, DAR, 1965.

→ { Augusta County Court Executive papers, 1745-1776, 2 volumes,
Augusta County Historical Society, 1968.

→ { Augusta County Ordinary Bonds, 1745-1776. Augusta County
Historical Society, 1968.

*Augusta County LAND ENTRY BOOK #1 - private
Historian*

*Augusta County MARRIAGE Bonds - 1810-1812 - Vol 13
Beverly Manor Chapter, DAR*

THE COURTS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

by Judge William S. Moffett, Jr.

In the early history of Augusta county and during the colonial period there was no superior court of record held in Augusta county. The only court of general jurisdiction, though not a superior court of record, was held under the old county court system. This court was organized by the Governor selecting from the county of Augusta a number of leading men and issuing to them commissions as Justice of the Peace. These Justices of the Peace sat together in bank and one of them was selected as a presiding Justice and they held the only court of Augusta county until the year 1789. The only other court which had jurisdiction over Augusta county in this period was the general court which sat at Williamsburg. In 1789 the Legislature of Virginia established a district court and this district was made up of Augusta county, Rockbridge county, Rockingham and Pendleton counties, and the court sat at Staunton.

The old county court system made up of Justices of the Peace who sat in bank continued in full force and effect until after the War between the States, when the Underwood Constitution abolished this court and established in its place and stead a county court which was to be presided over by a lawyer, a man "learned in the law" and this court continued in full force and effect until the Constitution of 1904 which abolished the court. The judges of this court established under the Underwood Constitution were Judge Hendren, Judge Quarles, Judge Stout and Judge Chalkley. As stated this court was abolished by the Constitution of 1904.

Now as stated above, the first superior court of record for Augusta county started in 1789 and continued sitting at Staunton until 1809.

There was also during this period of the history of Virginia a chancery court which sat for the western part of the state at Staunton, Virginia, and in 1802 Chancellor Brown presided over the court of chancery. He died in 1826 and was succeeded by Allen Taylor and he presided as chancellor until 1831 when Lucas P. Thompson became circuit judge and took over the business of the chancery court.

In 1809 the Legislature of Virginia passed an act declaring that there should be a superior court of record held for each

county in the state. They also passed another act in that year, 1809, establishing the different circuit courts of the state. They established the Eighth Circuit and this circuit was made up of Bath, Rockbridge, Augusta, Amherst, Nelson and Albemarle counties. To preside over this court, the Governor of Virginia designated and appointed Archibald Stuart who became judge of the circuit court in that year.

Now a word as to Archibald Stuart. He was educated at William and Mary College and was one of the charter members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society which was organized at William and Mary College on the 5th of December 1776. He was a soldier in the American Revolution. His father, Alexander Stuart, lived in Rockbridge county and after the Revolution, Archibald Stuart who was a young lawyer, and a brilliant young lawyer, went up to the county of Botetourt to attend the court there and the people of Botetourt on this occasion gave a dinner to the returned soldiers of the American Revolution. Young Archibald Stuart made a ringing speech at this dinner party and the people of Botetourt county were captivated by his eloquent and handsome appearance and they rallied around him and urged him to be a candidate for the Legislature from Botetourt. He stated to them that it was impossible for him to be a candidate as the requirements were that he should be a Freeholder, that is to hold land in the county of Botetourt, before he could become entitled to vote and hold office. At this dinner party was old Colonel Skillern and he said to young Stuart, "Well, I will fix that all right" and he proceeded thereupon to deed to Archibald Stuart house and lot in the town of Fincastle which qualified him to vote and hold office in the county of Botetourt. He was accordingly elected to the Legislature from Botetourt county and served his term there. Long years afterwards, Judge Archibald Stuart's distinguished son, Alexander H. H. Stuart, who had been Secretary of the Interior under President Fillmore, as the end of his career approached, made a deed by which he conveyed back to the heirs of Colonel Skillern the house in Fincastle that had been conveyed to Archibald Stuart to qualify him as a member of the Virginia Legislature.

Archibald Stuart continued to be Judge of the Circuit Court of Augusta County from 1809-1831 when he retired and Lucas P. Thompson was elected Judge of this circuit, which included the county of Augusta.

Judge Thompson had a long distinguished and honorable career as Judge. He not only acted as Judge of this circuit but established a law school in the town of Staunton where many of the lawyers of that day were educated and it may be said in passing that the father of the author of this statement sat at his feet and obtained his legal education from Judge Lucas P. Thompson. Judge Thompson presided over this court with great distinction and learning until the year 1866 when he was elected a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. However, Judge Thompson died before he could take his seat on the Supreme Court of Virginia. Judge Thompson was succeeded by Hugh W. Sheffy who served from 1866-1869.

After the War between the States and the reconstruction days were here, the military authorities in 1869 appointed David Fultz as Judge of the Circuit Court of Augusta county and he presided over this court from March 1869 to April 1870. In 1870 the state was reorganized under the Underwood Constitution and William McLaughlin was elected Judge of this circuit. He had been a soldier in the Confederate Army and he was a Colonel of the Rockbridge Artillery. He was a learned, able and just judge and presided over this circuit from June 1870 until August 1898 at which time he died. Judge McLaughlin made a great and lasting impression upon this circuit as a just and learned judge. In 1898 at the death of Judge McLaughlin, Samuel Houston Letcher of Lexington, Virginia, was appointed judge of the circuit and he held until 1912 when he declined to stand for re-election and Judge Henry W. Holt of Staunton, Virginia, was elected Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit and he continued to hold this judgeship until May 1928 when he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Now to bring this statement down to date, it may be stated that in May 1928 Joseph A. Glasgow was appointed by Governor Byrd to hold until the Legislature assembled as Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. When the Legislature assembled he was duly elected as Judge of this court and was re-elected in 1936 as Judge of this circuit.

This gives a brief statement of the courts that have been in existence in Augusta county since the beginning. The court records of this county are of tremendous value. They not only fix and establish the titles to the properties of Augusta county but they are teeming with history. Judge Chalkley made a care-

ful and able examination of the records of the courts of this county in a book known as "Chalkley's Papers." This book is of great value. However, the records of this county are not only valuable as fixing titles but a careful examination of them will give us a history of this western part of Virginia from the time this court's jurisdiction extended back to the Mississippi up and through the Civil War and also through the Great War of 1918. In these records may be found many incidents that could be made the basis of interesting stories and interesting history. Some day there may be some man who may have the energy and the interest to glean from these records stories that will be of untold interest to the people of Virginia and especially the western part of Virginia.

One matter of which the people of this county seem to know but little is an interesting matter of history and it should be a matter of pride to all of the citizens of this great county. This matter is the fact that on the 22nd day of February 1775 the freeholders of Augusta county met in this county courthouse and they proceeded to adopt a resolution which was a clear declaration of Independence by which they declared their determination to be free from any government, nation or parliament in which they had no word of representation. This declaration of Independence was adopted by the freeholders of Augusta County over a year before the great Declaration was made on the fourth of July 1776.

The great Virginia Historian, Hugh Blair Grigsby, who was President of the Virginia Historical Society and also was Chancellor of William and Mary College in a speech before the Phi Beta Kappa Society in Williamsburg in 1855 speaking on a resolution adopted by the freeholders of Augusta County which had been submitted to the State Convention at Williamsburg in June 1776, says of this resolution.

"It is the first distinct and responsible proposition in favor of independence and of a federal union which I have met with."

So it would seem from this item of history that in the courthouse of Augusta county was first started the movement which culminated in a Declaration of Independence on the fourth of July, 1776.

The resolution adopted by the Freeholders of Augusta county, which amounted to a Declaration of Independence, was in part as follows:

"Many of us and our forefathers left our native land and explored this once savage wilderness, to enjoy the free exercise of the rights of conscience and of human nature. These rights, we are fully resolved, with our lives and fortunes, inviolably to preserve; nor will we surrender such inestimable blessings, the purchase of toil and danger, to any ministry, to any Parliament, or any body of men on earth, by whom we are not represented, and in whose decisions, therefore, we have no voice.

Fully convinced that the safety and happiness of America depend, next to the blessing of Almighty God, on the unanimity and wisdom of her people, we doubt not you will, on your parts comply with the recommendations of the late Continental Congress, by appointing delegates from this colony to meet in Philadelphia the 10th of next May, unless American Grievances be redressed before that time. And so we are determined to maintain unimpaired that liberty, which is the gift of Heaven to the subjects of Britain's empire, and will most cordially join our countrymen in such measures as may be deemed wise and necessary to secure and perpetuate the ancient, just and legal rights of this colony and all British America.

Placing our ultimate trust in the Supreme Disposer of every event, without whose interposition the wisest schemes may fail of success, we desire you to move the Convention that some day, which may appear to them most convenient, be set apart for imploring the blessing of Almighty God of such plans as human wisdom and integrity may think necessary to adopt for preserving America happy, virtuous and free."

Joseph A. Glasgow was appointed Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit by Governor Harry F. Byrd in June, 1928, to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Henry W. Holt to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. The General Assembly then elected him for the unexpired term at its next session, and in 1936 re-elected him for another term

Floridus S. Crosby was elected by the Legislature at its 1942 Session as Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, for the unexpired term ending February 1, 1944. Judge Crosby was again

elected by the Legislature at its 1944 Session for a term of eight years, and continuously thereafter until his retirement on February 1, 1955.

Floridus S. Crosby resigned on February 1, 1955 due to poor health and subsequently on April 15, 1955 Governor Thos. B. Stanley appointed Wm. S. Moffett, Jr. as Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. Judge Moffett took the oath of office on April 30, 1955. When the Legislature assembled in December of the same year it elected Judge Moffett as Judge of the Eighteenth Circuit to fill Judge Crosby's unexpired term.

At this time the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit is made up of the counties of Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge and the City of Buena Vista.

The regular Session of the General Assembly in 1964 (Chapter 1, Page 3) converted the Corporation Court for the City of Staunton to the Circuit Court for the City of Staunton and added this Court to the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit effective February 3, 1964. At the same time an additional Judge was provided for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. As a result of this action, the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit is now made up of the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland and the Cities of Staunton, Buena Vista and Lexington.

On March 7, 1964, Paul A. Holstein took the oath as Associate Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.

HISTORY OF ST. FRANCIS PARISH

by Rev. Fr. John J. Munley

Although Mass may have been celebrated in the early 1600's in the vicinity of Staunton, first official record of the Catholic Church dates from January 1841, when the Rev. Daniel Downey visited local Catholics to celebrate Mass in the home of Mr. Michael Quinlan on Water Street (now Central Avenue). Father Downey continued to visit Staunton frequently. During these many visits, sometimes traveling over 300 miles, he ministered to the Catholics of Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, and Lexington.

In 1845, Staunton was raised to a pastorate, with Father Downey as the first pastor. This very energetic and devout priest can be credited with much in the development of Catholicism west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. By 1848, a local census of the city of Staunton included 2,456 individuals, 638 slaves and 52 free negroes. The Catholic population in the community had increased in number to the extent that they were ready to build a Church.

On land donated by Mr. Michael Quinlan and under Father Downey's leadership, a Church, 65 by 40 feet, was erected and named the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. The building was finished by May 1851. On May 13, the marriage of Robert Knightly and Joanna Moran was solemnized with a Nuptial Mass. The same year, Bishop John McGill traveled from Richmond to confirm 25 Catholics in St. Francis Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 9 boys and 16 girls on August 17, 1851.

From 1858 until after the War between the States, the parish of St. Francis was attended irregularly by priests traveling from either Richmond or Lynchburg. The Rev. T. O. Sears frequently administered the sacraments of Baptism and Marriage at St. Francis, as did the Rev. John Teeling. During the war years, the Rev. Joseph Bixio, S. J., was in Staunton, Father Bixio often accompanied the Confederate troops to say field Masses during the conflict.

The Rev. J. Ambler Weed was appointed permanent pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in 1867. During his tenure, a church school was established for the children of the 600 Catholics, then registered as members of the parish. The records show that



Laying of the corner stone of present church.

(From: "Centennial Anniversary Publication 1850-1950")

at Father Weed's death, March 23, 1871, there were 70 pupils in the school.

After the death of Father Weed, the Rev. John McVerry arrived to be pastor of St. Francis until the turn of the century. The present parochial residence was built by subscription in 1873 and 1874, the success of which was encouraged by two visits from Bishop James Gibbons.¹ The future Cardinal spoke to the people of the parish during both of these visits, praising them for the evident manifestation of their faith and encouraging them to spread their faith into the outlying districts of the Valley. It was as though he were foreseeing the development of the neighboring parishes.

In 1876, the Catholics in Harrisonburg completed their Church. Music for the dedication ceremonies on August 6 of that year was provided by the choir from St. Francis Church. This is the earliest record of the St. Francis Choir, which had been organized upon the arrival in Staunton of a German music teacher, Mr. Fredrick W. Walter² who taught music at the Augusta Female Seminary.³

St. Francis Church School continued to prosper, so that in 1878 the Sisters of Charity arrived to take over the teaching duties. In 1880 the sisters' convent was built and a new school building erected on the church grounds. (Cf History of the School).

During this period in St. Francis' history was celebrated the happy occasion of two vocations. Father Timothy O'Brien and Father Michael Dineen were the first young men from St. Francis of Assisi to enter the priesthood.

When money was obtained from the sale of property left St. Francis parish by Mr. John Gary, the parishioners and Father McVerry drew up plans in 1885 for a new and larger St. Francis Church. The climax of a steady growth in the Staunton Church was reached with the laying of the new cornerstone on September 10, 1895 by Bishop A. VandeVyver of Richmond. The new church was designed by S. J. Collins and Sons, Architects, and additional money for this enterprise was raised by a building committee consisting of Daniel Crimmens, Michael Kivlighan, and John Fallon. Also assisting in the planning project were

1. August 10, 1873 and July 5, 1874.
2. Father of the late Helen S. Walter & her sisters.
3. Mary Baldwin College.

C. J. Armistead, Dennis Brown, John Donovan and William Wholey.

The occasion of the dedication of the new St. Francis of Assisi Church on February 7, 1897 was given front page space in the local paper, the Staunton DAILY NEWS. A quartet from the Stonewall Brigade Band accompanied the St. Francis Choir in sacred music for the Solemn High Mass, which was celebrated by Father McVerry. Bishop VandeVyver delivered the sermon and High Vespers were sung in the evening to conclude the celebration.

In 1887, Bishop John J. Keane reported of his diocese that "Religion is in a healthy condition everywhere." And so it was in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi. Father McVerry was a noted theologian and scriptural scholar and extremely well versed in Irish lore. It was during this time the Hibernian Society flourished. Father McVerry was assisted in his work for the parish, which still included Lexington, Harrisonburg and Waynesboro, by many young assistant priests.⁴

Early in 1900 Father McVerry was transferred to another parish and the Rev. J. Frioli became pastor. Assisted by the Rev. A. J. Van Ingelgem, who was most interested in establishing a mission for the negroes, Father Frioli was pastor when Pius X issued a papal encyclical on the importance of sacred music in the Catholic Church. Extremely enthusiastic, Father Frioli asked the ladies of the choir to step down and let the men take over. For a period of years, the St. Francis choir consisted solely of male voices, much to the irritation of the ladies of the parish.

Father A. J. Van Ingelgem was endeared to the St. Francis parishioners by his many amusing stories of his mission work in the mountains west of Staunton. Traveling in horse and buggy, Father "Van" would take several local boys to serve on the improvised altars through the mountains. On one occasion, the people insisted that they take up a collection to show their appreciation to Father "Van," and he had a good laugh when they presented him with the total collection of \$1.50. Many of these Catholic families would come to Staunton every year to make their Easter Duty, staying with the local families for a

4. Assistants during the years were the Reverend Fathers: J. F. Bullick, E. P. Kilgalen, P. J. Morahan, E. A. Brosnan, W. J. Meredith, C. Comaskey, P. VanGanzewinkel, P. F. O'Kane, T. J. Walshe, B. J. McKenna, J. B. Moore, E. C. Keiefer, A. Campbell, P. Tierney, M. Hartigan, J. F. McMahon, and D. Stockert.

week or so while they combined their religious duties and social affairs.

In 1905, Father Frioli was succeeded by the Rev. William A. McKeefry with the Rev. John A. Curran as assistant. When Father McKeefry left several years later, Father Curran remained as administrator of St. Francis parish.

The Rev. Timothy Crowe came to St. Francis of Assisi in 1914 as pastor, but poor health soon forced him to return to his native Ireland for recuperation. During the years of World War I, the Rev. John J. DeGryse was in Staunton as administrator of the parish.

A new school building had been erected in 1907. From this period there is record of many social functions for the parish sponsored by the Hibernian Society, the Knights of Columbus, the St. Francis Ladies Guild and the Sanctuary Society. Lawn Fetes, receptions and picnics were money-raising parties throughout the early 1900's and 1920's.

One of the highlights for St. Francis was the ordination in the Church of Father William J. Meredith on December 22, 1917. Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell came from Richmond for the ordination, which was attended by many local people. This occasion was doubly a celebration since he had been moved in 1900.⁵ Father Meredith said his first Mass on December 23, 1917 in St. Francis Church.

The members of the parish were equally proud of another local son when the Rev. Edward Payne Kilgalen was ordained on May 16, 1918 in Baltimore by Archbishop James Gibbons. Father Kilgalen returned to celebrate his first Mass in St. Francis on May 19, 1918.

In 1920, Timothy Crowe returned as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi. Shortly hereafter, the Rev. Emmett Gallagher became the assistant to Father Crowe. In June the Harrisonburg Mission was established as a separate parish, relieving the St. Francis pastor of some traveling, although St. Patrick's Church in Lexington was still included in the parish.

On March 12, 1927, another St. Francis young man was ordained to the priesthood in Rome, Italy. Father Thomas Edward Mitchell returned to his home parish to celebrate Mass in the summer of 1927, an occasion celebrated by his family and the entire parish.

5. As he had requested, Father McVerry was buried in the St. Francis Church Yard in March 1930.

In 1927, when Father Crowe returned to Ireland, Father Gallagher became pastor, with the Rev. Julian Bullock as his assistant. An amusing parish story tells that when Father Crowe left for Ireland and Father Gallagher was still acting pastor, Father Crowe carried the key to the money box and the safety deposit vault for St. Francis Parish. Every time either of these had to be opened, Father Gallagher would write to Father Crowe for the key, it would be sent and then returned. Parishioners often speculated on the number of times the key crossed the Atlantic.

In 1933, St. John's Church was completed in Waynesboro with money left by Miss Margaret Burns, and the scope of the pastoral duties was further increased. During these "depression" years, parish finances were often uncertain. In one of the pleas for a bountiful collection, Father Gallagher revealed that only \$2.65 remained in the treasury. The response was generous according to the grateful thanks in the announcements the following Sunday.

The Sisters of Charity sponsored, in 1934, a Solemn High Military Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Louise, co-founder of the Order of the Sisters of Charity. The full-dress uniforms of the local cadets and the sabers raised during the Consecration made this Mass a unique event for the many visitors crowded into St. Francis Church. A few Sundays later, the Sisters and the ladies of the parish served a special communion breakfast for the cadets to show their appreciation for their help.

The missionary work of St. Francis parish was increased with the establishment of many CCC Camps in this area during the later 1930's. While some of these boys came into St. Francis Church, it was the usual order on Sunday for Father Gallagher or his assistant to travel many miles to celebrate Mass at these camps, as well as maintain the regular schedule of services at Lexington and Waynesboro. Throughout this period, in addition to their regular teaching duties, the Sisters of Charity kept pace with the priests in mission work — going every Sunday to give religious instructions in Lexington, Harrisonburg and Waynesboro.

An indication of the progress of the time during the 1930's was the substitution of bingo parties and card parties for the lawn parties and suppers of earlier years. Still running jointly as social and fund-raising functions, these occasions sponsored by the various Church organizations. Plays by the St. Francis

School children were also features at Christmas and Commencement time.

Another highlight in 1939 was the celebration of his first local Mass on Sunday, June 4, by the Rev. Robert O. Hickman, of St. Francis Parish. Ordained in Rome on May 30, 1939, Father Hickman returned to St. Francis to celebrate Mass and bless his family and friends. Father Hickman is now the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisonburg.

We are equally proud of the number of religious vocations to the Sisterhood in our Parish. The following have served in the community of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent dePaul: Sister Mary Bernard Noordan, Sister Margaret Stack, Sister Elizabeth Stack, Sister Romana Dineen and Sister Helen McAleer, who is at present stationed in St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Also serving in religious communities are Sister Miriam Kivlighan of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland; Sister Sophie Barrat (Crickard), of the Missionary Helpers of the Sacred Heart; and Sister Regina Marie Sheehan of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky.

With the declaration of World War II, the members of St. Francis were plunged into a total participation. Pleas of help at the USO or Red Cross were included in the usual Sunday announcements. The scope of mission work was further increased when German and Italian diplomats were interned at Ingleside Hotel during 1942. The Catholics among this group heard Mass and received the Sacraments at the Hotel. Later in the war, the prisoner of war camps in this vicinity further occupied Father Gallagher and his assistant, the Rev. John F. McMahon.

On September 1, 1943, representatives of St. Francis parish attended the dedication of Woodrow Wilson Army Hospital and the Woodrow Wilson Post Chapel. Dedicated to the Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths, the Chapel served the Catholics at the hospital throughout the war.

Soon after the cessation of hostilities, Catholicity in St. Francis Parish was enforced with the establishment of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in College Park. This Monastery, dedicated by the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Giovanni Cicognani on September 20, 1945 was the home of the Capuchin monks. The monastery was closed in 1970.

On August 14, 1946, St. Patricks in Lexington was established as a separate parish, with Father Selhorst, C. PP. S., as the first resident pastor. In September of 1947, Father Gallagher

was transferred to another diocesan parish and the Rev. James P. Gacquin came to St. Francis with the Rev. Donfred Stockert remaining as assistant. In 1949, Father Stockert was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas F. Egan.

In 100 years, the parish of St. Francis of Assisi has grown and established roots in the city of Staunton. The progress has been due jointly to the labors of the priests and the people of the parish. Many Catholics have taken prominent parts in local civic and school affairs, and the entire parish has developed with a deep faith.

The climax of 100 years in the redecoration program recently completed, a fitting dedication to the priests and people who have worshipped jointly at St. Francis of Assisi from 1850 until 1971.

Father Gacquin was succeeded as pastor by Father Francis Klemmer who died in 1953. Father Gacquin retired from the active ministry and died in 1962. Father Klemmer was followed by Father James McConnell who died in 1969. Father McGonigle was appointed the pastor of Saint Francis parish after Father McConnell was transferred. Father McGonigle became the pastor of Saint John's in Highland Springs, outside of Richmond and is still there as the pastor. Father Paul Gaughan was appointed the pastor of Saint Francis when Father McGonigle was transferred. Under the guidance of Father Gaughan work was started on the renovations of the Church property. Father Roscoe Roy Cosby arrived as pastor after Father Gaughan was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk. Under Father Cosby the Church was painted and redecorated and many improvements were made to the parish buildings. In September of 1970, Father John J. Munley, a classmate of Father Cosby was appointed by Bishop Russell to be the new pastor of Saint Francis. Father Munley had been the pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Covington, Va. The parish and the community in general was deeply saddened as Father Innocent the last of the Capuchin Fathers in the area bid farewell and the Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels, closed its doors. Soon, God willing, Saint Francis Parish will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Charity to teach in Saint Francis School, 1978 will be the year.

WAYNESBORO'S "OLD" PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One can only imagine what the old couple must have felt. Perhaps their journey had been long. But they had returned to Waynesboro at last—together—and in the excitement of the occasion they forgot their fatigue.

For a moment they paused outside the building on Main St. They had reached the end of their trip, but they were puzzled.

The marquee which read "Waynesboro News-Virginian" was a part of the facade they didn't remember. But the massive solid walnut doors were the same. In the joy of recognition, their ponderous weight seemed nothing to the old man as he opened them for his wife.

Inside were steps leading to a counter and receptionist at the top who watched the curious pair that seemed in no rush to state their business, but rather stopped to caress the smooth banister and newel post, to study the walls, windows and ceiling, seemingly preoccupied, as one who has brushed the dust from an old scrapbook and settled on the attic floor for an afternoon of memories.

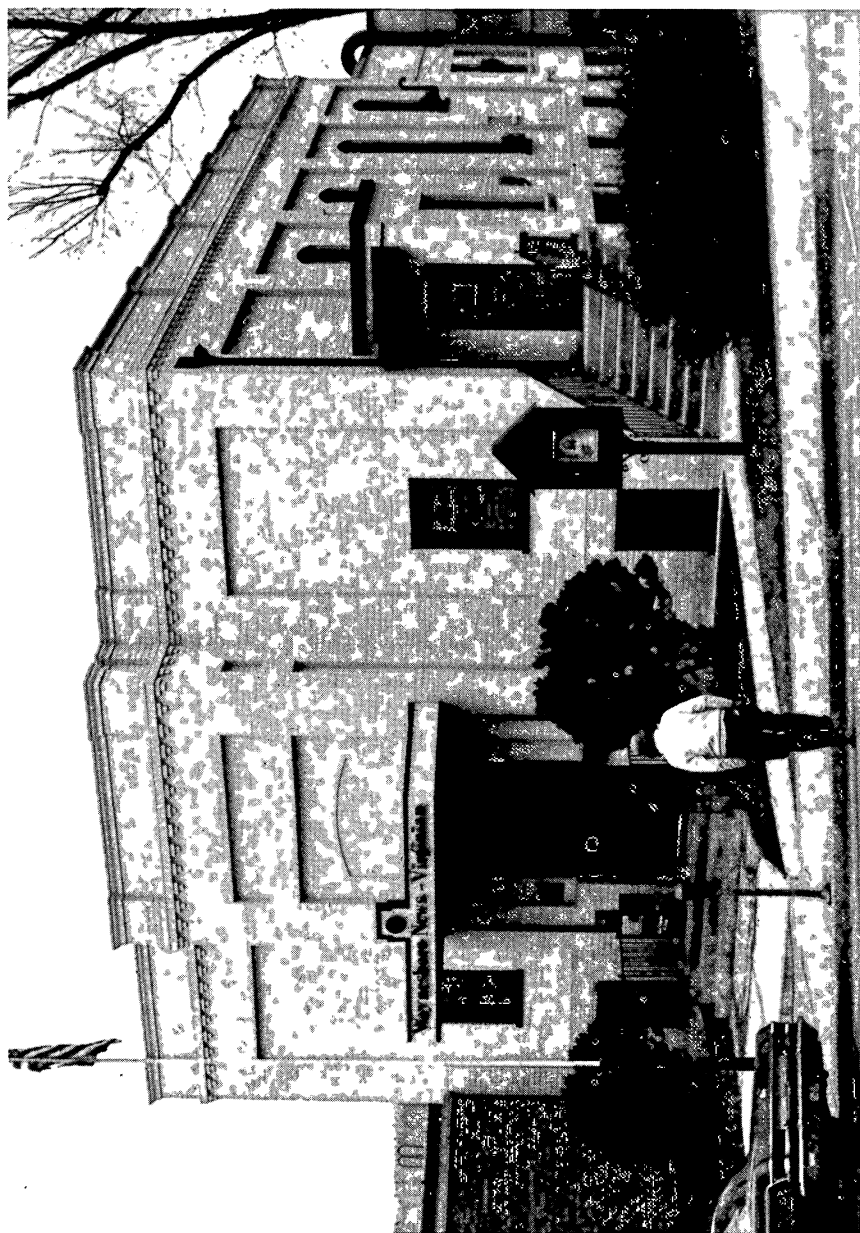
"May I help you?" queried a friendly young voice at the counter, bringing them slowly, perhaps reluctantly, back to the present and the realization that there were others in the room—watching them.

"No . . . no, we just came back for sentimental reasons," explained the woman. "You see, we were married in this building 50 years ago today."

"May we sit here?" she asked, indicating a pew that had a more natural place in the building when it was a church. The care with which the two sat down must have given the venerable old seat a special aura as it, in turn, made these strangers seem more a part of the building than those who worked there every day.

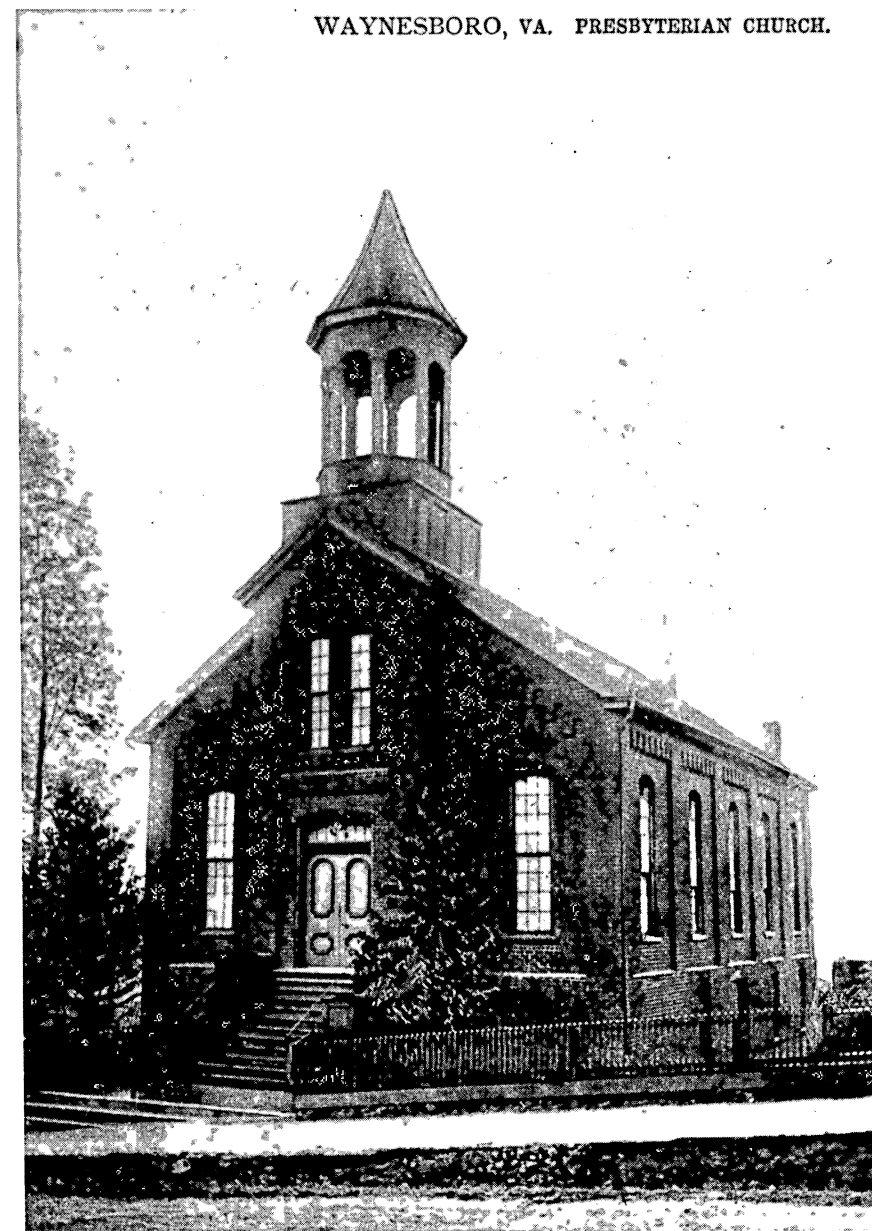
They spoke of the old frescoed walls, trying to remember what was depicted there. Weren't they painted in a bluish-gray? And there was carpeting . . . surely, red carpeting down the aisles where they had walked on their wedding day.

There was a big wood stove on the right as you came in the door—or was it the left? Or were there two stoves? The pulpit



Many details of the modern building can be recognized as a part of the former structure.

(Courtesy: Waynesboro News-Virginia)



As church appeared at turn of the Century.

(Courtesy: Waynesboro News-Virginia)

was down front, right in the center, with a pipe organ on the left. And the old man who pumped the organ . . . what was his name? Piper—Obe Piper! That was it!

The Fishburne Military School boys sat in short pews there, on the left . . . and the Valley Seminary girls over there on the right in the "Amen corner."

The couple pointed out features of the church for the newspaper employes at the memories flooded back. But they needed no audience. They were there again . . . king and queen in their arena of the past; for a few moments masters of the shape of that world from their ringside seat—the old pew.

The pew—it was good that this one had been kept when the church was moved "all the way over to S. Wayne Ave." That had seemed so far then, and the "new" building so much bigger than the homey old one where everybody knew everybody, getting together often for prayer meetings and social gatherings downstairs.

Yes, they supposed it was that way in the newer church, too. But still . . .

They had risen and the thought was to remain pendant along with the chandelier—another recollection they spoke of as they went back down the steps and out the door, leaving their listeners looking about the offices as though they didn't quite recognize them any more. But pilgrimage completed, the old couple was gone as quietly as they had come—gone back to their own town, their own daily routines.

The coming and going of individuals, groups and organizations was nothing new for the building at 514 W. Main St. Since it was built for the First Presbyterian Church in a four-year program (1874 to 1878), it has undergone so many remodelings and renovations that about the only original parts still recognizable are the 18-inch solid brick walls and the walnut doors.

Founded by the congregation of The Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, the first house of worship for Waynesboro Presbyterians was a log building erected in 1798 on "Cemetery Hill" overlooking the present Centre-for-Shopping. In 1824, this church was replaced with a brick one in the same location.

Then, at a total cost of \$7,208 for lot, building and furniture, using materials from the church in the old cemetery as much as possible, the new home of First Presbyterian Church went up at 514 W. Main St.

Forty-four years later, after the Presbyterians moved to their present location on S. Wayne Ave., the steeple was removed and the building renovated for use as the Star Theatre, said to have "a spacious stage" and "right extensive dressing rooms underneath" by those who remember it.

When the moviehouse was moved to the newer Wayne Theatre in 1926, Fishburne Military Academy purchased the building for use as a temporary gymnasium. Again it was renovated, this time with a basketball court upstairs and a boxing ring and wrestling rooms in the basement.

Then it was sold again and rented out to various groups for dances, plays and for variety, minstrel and traveling shows. In 1934 it was left idle and unused—an intermission as if for a well-earned rest.

In 1941, the Waynesboro Publishing Corp. bought the building and moved from its location on Wayne Ave. Six years later, in 1947, more rooms were added to the left and rear of the building in a remodeling. Since then, the flattening of the roof, the addition of a room with large observation windows for the new offset press (in space once used as Waynesboro's first miniature golf course), and a new paint job have made the old church barely recognizable.

But perhaps the real story is yet to be told by the many who have put their weight against the big walnut doors.

People like J. Ellison Loth, Col. E. P. Childs, Jr., Col. E. B. Young, Jr. (who remembers the old couple), Harry Nash, Louis Spilman, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett W. Barger, Wrendo M. Godwin and Gene W. Fitch.

And people like James Massie. He has worked for the News-Virginian since he was 14 years old, starting in 1928. In that same year, his brother took him to see his first movie in the Star Theatre—a Buck Jones western. He remembers the piano player "who would watch the movie and play faster during a fight."

In those days, even though a guy could "hit the flick" for 15 cents in the morning or 20 cents at night, a movie—especially a youngster's first—was a special occasion. Apparently for Mr. Massie it was no exception. There was a wistful look in his eyes when he said, "After that, I always loved Buck Jones."

Deane Dozier

100 YEARS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

by Richard D. Hamilton

As public education in Staunton and throughout Virginia moves into its second century, it seems appropriate to offer a condensed reflection of its origination in Staunton and to review in highlight fashion its development, 1870-1970.

This condensation is based on a substantially documented University of Virginia master's thesis prepared in 1952 by William K. Dove on public education in Staunton. A copy is on file in the University's Alderman Library. Supplementary data was gleaned from references listed at the conclusion.

If an editorial from the city's weekly "Valley Virginian" of March 10, 1870 adequately reflects the public mood, the debut of at least the idea of public education well might be considered to have been something less than auspicious:

"We think it best to shake hands with the past and look before us.

"We have every reason to believe that Virginia is just entering upon a career of prosperity unprecedented in her history.

"The 'Common School' fixture is a great bug-bear. True it is objectionable, but under the Constitution it is susceptible to improvement. And in the recent election of William H. Ruffner, as state superintendent, we have assurance that it will be judiciously systematized, and managed to the best advantage for four years to come. The great majority of our population are unable to educate their children. We must either establish schools at the public expense, or leave them in ignorance—all to exercise the elective franchise, and no means of appealing to their judgments. Our neighbor state of West Virginia assesses, for their purpose, a special tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars. The proprietors taxed for educational support may expect, in time, to realize investment in the enhancing of the value of their property. Our contempt for the "Yankees" should not cause us to reject what is useful because they have invented it. And Common Schools are not their invention. We believe they originated with the Scotch."

The record of public education in Staunton, however, belies the dubious note cast beneath the somewhat hollow ring of optimism in the editorial. Staunton appears to have grasped the significance of the opportunity. Leadership, direction, financial



(Courtesy: Thomas C. McSwain, Supt. of Schools)

THE STAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CLASS 1876

Left to right, bottom row, Phil Allen, Will Hanger, Ash Hoshour, Andrew Moyer, Lou Alby, Bill Blacklel (sic), Will Morrison, John Manley, Scott Funkhouser, second row, Sabra Schett, Naomi Stoddard, Emma Plecker, Belle Gillock, Jessie Gibbs, Babe Irving, Emma Thompson, Laura Hamrick, Willie Sturgis; third row, Rosa Smith, Lizzie McCue, Nettie Myer, Kittie Fitch, Lyda Broon, Mrs. Thompson, Anna Logan, Professor Ladd, Bettie Yost, Clarence Brown, Nina Smith; top row, Thomas Brooks, Bill Markwood, Clarence Foster, Tom Harman, Will Richardson, Hugh Stewart, Oll Smith, Henry Smith, Bert Blackburn. (Photo presented to Supt. T. C. McSwain by W. P. Tannehill.)

support and dedicated implementation of the program were provided with a gratifying degree of alacrity.

A new state Constitution, referred to in the "Valley Virginian" editorial, which made provisions for Virginia's return to the Union in 1869 included provisions for a complete statewide system of public education. Thomas Jefferson had proposed a similar educational arrangement in 1779 to the Virginia General Assembly to no avail. The new Constitution was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor June 11, 1870. In December, 1870 Staunton's free public school system was in operation as a part of the overall Augusta County education system with Staunton as a school district within the county under the jurisdiction of the county's schools' superintendent.

Forerunner of the School Board was the Board of Trustees of the Staunton Free Public Schools. Its members were appointed to three year terms by the State Board of Education. It was not until 1902 that the trustees' body was designated officially as the School Board of the City of Staunton.

The first three trustees were Major H. M. Bell, William I. Nelson, and P. B. Hoge. They initiated the organization of the school system in Staunton, meeting first Nov. 5, 1870 at which time Mr. Nelson was elected president and Mr. Hoge clerk, and again on Nov. 22, 1870 when the first teachers were appointed. Teachers in general were in short supply since those who were not operating their own private schools often could not pass the required examinations for placement. The trustees therefore frequently employed teachers from the North where public schools already had been established. "Yankee teachers" proved a problem, it was reported, since they were not accepted socially, but the problem proved self-solving as the popularity of public schools prompted increasing interest on the part of local teachers.

For the first three years, Staunton's free schools operated as a district within the jurisdiction of the county superintendent who for the first year was Dr. Barnas Sears, a native of Massachusetts but a Staunton resident as the general agent for the educationally philanthropic Peabody Fund. Major Jedediah Hotchkiss, an educator in his own right, originally was appointed to the office but failed to qualify because of his Civil War role. However, Major Hotchkiss, it is generally agreed, performed the duties of the office while Dr. Sears was superintendent in name only of the Augusta County and Staunton Free Public Schools.

In 1871 J. E. Guy was appointed to the office, succeeding Dr. Sears who resigned in the fall of that year.

Dr. Sears' role was nonetheless dedicated to the advancement of public education in the South. From the \$3.5 million philanthropic trust he served as general agent, Staunton schools received \$1,790 annually during the 13 years the former Brown University president continued in that post. He had accepted it in 1867, moved to Staunton because of its rail connections with the rest of the South, and traveled extensively throughout the southern states in the quest of the Peabody Fund goal, to promote through financial assistance the public school system. He had succeeded Horace Mann as secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education prior to his tenure as college president.

The amount of the Peabody Fund donations was geared to school division enrollments and required participating division communities to at least double and usually triple the amount of funds received for current expenses. The communities concerned also were to bear the expense of erecting, repairing and furnishing school-houses. To this community financial responsibility the school trustees added the payment of rent for schools quartered in private and institutional buildings.

The City Council on Nov. 18, 1870 appropriated \$1,500 for the use of the "Public Free Schools for the Town." On March 23, 1871 the Council's tax ordinance for the next fiscal year called for a 20 cents levy on every hundred dollars' value in real estate "for the support of free schools." This was in addition to a general levy of 50 cents on each \$100 of evaluation.

Leadership and financial support had been forthcoming. Now the Staunton schools' division sought independence from the county. That independence was to bring forth a continued succession of strong leadership.

In 1873, Staunton was made an independent unit for school administration on petition by the city's Board of School Trustees to the State Board of Education. John J. Ladd, principal of all Staunton schools, was appointed as the first exclusively Staunton superintendent of schools at a salary of \$1,500 a year. His salary was increased to \$2,000 in 1874. In 1878 he was succeeded by Dr. R. S. Hamilton who instituted a complete graded system in the schools before his resignation in 1882 to accept the superintendency of Western Lunatic Asylum. Others in line of succession up to the present include W. A. Bowles, W. W. Robertson, John H. Bader, Major H. F. Smith, a former VMI com-

mandant; J. P. Neff, G. L. H. Johnson, L. F. Shelburne, and T. C. McSwain.

Program implementation had begun during those November, 1870 meetings of the school trustees when the first teachers were employed and arrangements were made for the physical plants in which instruction was to begin.

The first schools were held in rented space in churches, buildings and private homes. Two church basements were the first public school houses. The Baptist Church facility was rented for seven months at \$37.50 and rental for the Lutheran Church was \$5 per month.

To equip these original public school sites 75 grammar desks and 10 rear seats were ordered from a Baltimore firm for a total cost of \$659.

The two schools did not accommodate the entire school population and finally for the 1870-71 session there were ten locations rented throughout the city for instructional purposes. Conditions generally were crowded, however, and on April 19, 1873 the old Staunton Academy at the present site of the Woodrow Apartments on New Street was leased by the school trustees. This is reported to have alleviated the cramped classroom situation somewhat, but it is interesting to note enrollment comparisons.

There were 315 pupils enrolled when the schools first opened in December, 1870. Five and one half months later when that abbreviated first term ended enrollment had increased 76 per cent, to 553. Average daily attendance was 380. For the school year 1873-74 the term was seven months, the faculty numbered 14 as previously, and average daily attendance in the 13 grades instructed was 550. Increase in enrollment by 1880 was 47 per cent over that of 1870.

Staunton's public school enrollment at the close of the 100th year was 4,573.

So in those early years the constant race appeared to have been one which is just as familiar a century later, providing at least adequate space for pupils. The first new school building, authorized by City Council in 1873, was occupied March 1, 1874 on Madison Street between Frederick and Main on a lot owned by Mrs. Isabella Kinney. The new primary building cost \$1,294.56, including desks and necessary outbuildings. The Negro school at that time was located in rented quarters known as the "Old Market House," now the site of a restaurant opposite

the Professional Building on the corner of Frederick Street and Central Avenue. It did not prove adequate for the growing Negro enrollment and additional rental space was necessary.

Purchase of the building for \$3,500 was authorized in 1873 and by 1910 it became the consolidated school for Negro pupils. The building was sold in 1915 for \$18,000 and two separate Negro schools were constructed, D. Webster Davis Primary School on Sunnyside Street and T. C. Edmunds on W. Johnson Street which was a combination grammar and high school. Both schools totaled \$13,795 in cost.

In 1874 the Wesleyan Female Institute on West Main Street opposite Trinity Church was rented for \$66 per month by the School Board. This building, which was to be named Stonewall Jackson Primary School in 1914, was purchased by the School Board from the trustees of the Wesleyan Female Institute June 3, 1879 for \$7,750. By 1888 it had become a consolidated school for all the white pupils in the city. Primary, intermediate and high schools were housed on the first two floors. The third floor was used as an auditorium. There also were classes conducted in a building adjoining the school which later was sold to Central Methodist Church for Sunday School use. In the early 1950s during the post World War II school enrollment boom the then Sunday School classrooms once again were pressed into use as primary classrooms, on a rental basis.

The next school built was the Baldwin Street School in 1903 on the present site of the Fire House Parking Lot. Intended as a primary school, it so served until 1912 when public sentiment dating back to the 1910 cave-in was expressed in petition demanding transfer of primary aged children from the building. The petition was prompted by fear the cave-in had undermined the school. High school pupils from the Main Street school were transferred to the Baldwin Street site in return for the primary youngsters. The high school arrangement continued there until 1924-25 when newspaper accounts report the building was declared unsafe. The construction of the present Robert E. Lee High School was begun and high school students again were shifted. This time they were housed temporarily in the Thomas Jefferson Grammar School which had been built in 1916 at a total cost, including equipment, of \$61,029.

The new high school was completed in 1927 at a total cost of \$260,000. It was designed for a pupil enrollment range of 450-600. In 1936 Booker T. Washington High School was built

for \$78,000 with \$31,000 of that figure financed by the federal government through the Works Progress Administration.

The enrollment trend in the schools for both races was to increase until 1940. Since 1940 there has been a steady Negro enrollment decrease and up until 1950 a gradual white increase. School census figures showed, however, an anticipated post World War II enrollment increase in the early 1950s. Coupled with the introduction of two major industrial plants in that period, an enrollment swell prompted some long-range building program plans by the School Board mid-way through this century.

The result was a 15-year school construction program, 1952-67, which not only brought about expanded physical plant accommodations, but permitted curriculum broadening, the introduction of the 12-year school system and a junior-senior high school arrangement. Total cost of that 15-year effort is figured at \$6 million. It added 188 classrooms. The results have been the Bessie Weller Elementary School in 1952 with classroom space almost doubled by an addition in 1966, a \$1 million addition to Robert E. Lee High School in 1954 which provided 31 additional classrooms for an enrollment of 1,000 pupils plus a gymnasium and cafeteria; the Westside Elementary School in 1956 with additions in 1964 and 1965 to double its classroom space; Northside Elementary School in 1958 and addition in 1966 to bring classrooms up to 28; additions to Booker T. Washington High School in 1960 and 1962; Shelburne Junior High School in 1962 and an administration building in 1963 which also included classroom and auditorium space; and John Lewis Junior High School in 1967.

Court-ordered integration of the public schools was accomplished without incident in 1966. Transfer of Negro pupils to the previously all-white schools in the city necessitated some of the additions of classroom space which were accomplished as addenda to the long-range building program begun in the early 1950s, the present superintendent, T. C. McSwain reports.

Recalling that average daily attendance in 1870 was 380, it is interesting to note that figure for 1970, 4,423. To point up the necessity for the school expansion efforts in the 1950s, it is noted that average daily attendance in 1950 was 2,141.

A review in highlight fashion does not permit detailed attention to the curriculum advances across the years, but basically it amounts to a barebones beginning of the three Rs and subse-

quent emphasis on the traditional classical program of instruction during the early years. Yet the minutes of the School Board meetings are sprinkled with examples of far-sighted thinking in the area of curriculum broadening. By 1893 instruction was being offered in free-hand drawing, architectural drawing, mechanical drawing, wood-joining, manual training, cooking and sewing. The first modern foreign language offered in the city's public schools was German in 1904. By 1908 a course of study was introduced for the high school, college-entrance oriented, but deliberately designed to avoid the "elective method."

In the last two decades, curriculum expansion to meet the needs of both college and non-college bound pupils has been a major emphasis point of the administration. Looking ahead with the School Board, there are preliminary plans on the drawing board for a new elementary school, necessitated in part by the fact that the Stonewall Jackson School which was built in 1850 fails to meet Building Code requirements; a move toward introduction of a kindergarten system, accreditation of the elementary schools and further expansion of the high school.

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LEAVES FROM AN OLD DIARY

by Ron Steffey

A diary written by John Marshall Steffey, kept from August 1894 to February 1895, reflects the customs of that era and describes in colorful detail the day-to-day existence of a family's life as it was lived in Staunton before the turn of the century.

John Steffey had built a log cabin across the road from a healthy spring on the Buttermilk Spring Road. The cabin was a good mile from town at the close of the century. Today the site contains only the remnants of settlement....a stone chimneyweeds....a board or two....the overgrown spring. Around the curve a sign denotes the City Limits....a hundred yards *past* the site.

He was a religious man....expecting his family to attend services every week. Talents were many....orator....school teachercourt worker....musician....farmer....businessman....advisor.

He writes, "Went to town in morning — Sold some truck (vegetables) — Went with boys to look for coal on track — Got some; No Rain — Drought on in all its fierceness — People hauling water from every direction — Went up to see School House foundation in evening; Mr. Thacker came over in evening & set awhile — Mr. Rennie's cow had calf today; Fine rain in afternoon and again at night — Some have awful thunder & lightning; Sam & myself worked on gate most of the day — Got it hung by night — Have a first rate gate — Brought up mush-melons to ripen to day; Went over to the Smith's to sing a few tunes — Went up to Chinquapin Chapel to pray in meeting — Had a good meeting indeed — Watched M. Melons at night in garden; Muskmelons ripening very fast now — Get 10, 15, & 20 cts. apiece for them; Getting along slowly with School House — No money in treasury to pay for S. House — H. Goodman sentenced to 18 yrs. in penitentiary for Killing Parsons; Agreed on to the price of wheat per Bu. 55c from Mr. Trimble's mill — Great drought; sold tomatoes 10c per doz. — went over to see Van Fossen boring for water — Met up with rock — Hard work — Made tomato preserves to day; Borrowed pistol at night to keep off robber from melon patch; Saw T. Knowles & had few cross words with him about the prayer meeting at Chapel — Rennie butchered ram for fighting today — Sold all the meat; Day very warm & sultry — Heaviest rain in 12 months fell

about midday — Big rush of water came down by stable & hog pen; Went to town — Court day — Immense crowd — Sam Small made great speech at C. House for prohibition; Went to Mr. Grove through Plunkettsville into town — Bought 2 chickens 25c each; Went to town to see opening of fair — Good crowd — Went to fair — Fine exhibit generally — Some things really first class — Nights are quite cool — Slept well; Saw about manure at street car stables; Court appointed me executor in will of H. C. Stuart — Sam Byers had trial for shooting at boy; Brought home 7 lbs. sugar from Blackburn's at 4c per lb. — commenced school to day — Had no scholars but my own; Very dry to day — Big fires in Minn. — 150 persons roasted alive from flames in woods; Went to Kindig's for dinner — Had fine dinner — Was well entertained — People treated us well; Sold grapes, tomatoes & chinquapins; Great drought now broken — Got 1½ lbs. coffee of Bailey at 20c lb.; Bees making no honey at all; High water did considerable damage — Mr. drowned at Shutterlies Mill; Brass Factory burnt this evening; This is picnic day at Chapel — Had fine time — Girls & boys made happy with many good things to eat; Went to Buffalo Gap — Rode Mr. Rennie's mule — Mr. Kinsley attacked by robbers; Morning bright & most beautiful — Heavy dew; Went up to church at night — Had lively meeting — Several conversions; Had my spectacles mended; Bought 3½ lbs. butter for 75c; Dug sweet potatoes — Very Por crop — Great crop of chestnuts; Simmons is carrying on big meeting at Baptist Church; Mr. Clatterbaugh altered pigs today — Expelled John McCauley from school for insolence; Making molasses; School House done except stoves & benches; 5 chickens & 4 turkeys stolen last night; Taught school in new school house — Plenty room — Everything indicates hard times this winter; Politics somewhat same hereabouts; Scholars whose arms did not get sore must be re-vaccinated — brought out slate and books — 40c for slate; People are being vaccinated all around; Taught school — One of the girls had spell of weakness — Caught rabbit this morning — Times very hard & getting worse all around — Czar died to day; Esther (wife) & myself went over to baptizing in the fairgrounds lake — Goodly number of persons present; All helped to can our apples; Day very harsh, windy & cold — First snow of season — Election day — Indications that Tucker is elected — It looks as if winter has commenced; Buried cabbage & beets — Republican victory everywhere — Big vote; All the children went up to the Magic Lantern show at Chapel; Had rabbit pie for dinner —

The S. Board did not encourage getting an assistant teacher; People beginning to butcher all around; Wild geese going south; Thanksgiving Day — People generally idle; Roads quite muddy; Mr. Rennie sent up mess of hog liver to day; Closed the 3rd month of teaching to day with 37 scholars — Patrons came out; Had molasses pudding for dinner; Quiet Christmas as I ever saw; Worked on sleigh runner to day — Snow about 6 inches deep; At night thermometer down to zero; Went with children to Christmas Tree — Large crowd — Had plenty of gifts for children — I got uncommingly tired sawing wood; People can't do anything now — Business at a stand still — We are pretty well off for coal & wood — Most fortunately; No doubt a good deal of suffering among the poor; C. E Society had fine meeting in Staunton to day; Papers speak of the late storm doing much damage; Long's milk wagon makes regular trip morning & evening — We miss a cow so much; Big strike in Brooklyn — Troops called out — There seems to be general destitution everywhere owing to scarcity of money; Giant ship disaster in North Sea — 240 lives lost; Went to town, walked; Day clear, cold and wintry — Fine times for sleighing — Great fun in sliding down hill; Y.W.C.A. Convention going on in Staunton; Accounts of cold appalling even South — Also Florida; Great suffering in town & elsewhere; Trains come through from North for first time; Great loss of life; Great rejoicing over the safety of French steamer — Effie Sheets & Earnest Dull were married to day."

Throughout the diary, prices of food and commodities were carefully recorded giving our generation insights into comparative economic structures.

Food and Commodity Prices

Sugar—7c lb.	Spool of thread—6c	Beef head—20c
Coffee—20c lb.	12 lbs. of beef—90c	Brandy—20c
Butter—21c lb.	Mincemeat—10c lb.	Currants—4c lb.
6 yds. cotton—30c	Molasses—50c gal.	Broom—25c
7 pair stockings—60c	Comb—10c	One chicken—25c
Bacon—9c lb.	Steak—12c lb.	½ gal. oysters—60c
2 rabbits—25c	Lard—8c lb.	Eggs—20c doz.
Child's suit—\$2.00	Soup bone—10c	Cloak—85c
plus	Flannel—10c yd.	Raisins—12c
Dates—17c	Crackers—5c lb.	Mixed nuts—5c lb.
Lemon extract—5c	Pair shoes—75c	Pork—10c lb.
Wash pan—35c		

OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

"BELMONT FARM"

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle W. Howdysshell
New Hope, Virginia

by Gladys B. Clem

A little six year old boy sat on a tree shaded hill that overlooked his father's farm. The June morning was hot and sultry, with a deep haze that nearly obscured the sun. In the distance flames sometimes broke through the thick overcast to be followed by an earth shaking roar. Suddenly the whole hillside seemed caught up in a fury of flame and thunderous sound. Now, thoroughly frightened he crouched down as far as he could behind a rotted tree stump.

The lad was Gleaves C. Beard (Sr.) and child-like, he did not realize that danger he was in — that he was practically in the center of the Battle of Piedmont.

Later, when searchers found him still crouched in his tree stump hideaway, and questioned why he had left the house, he explained that he "wanted to see the firin'."

When the battle was over in the late afternoon, "Belmont," the farm home of Samuel Beard, showed the stark evidence of the day's cannonading. The tall white columns of pie-shaped brick, that had been added to the house in 1839, were now scarred and shell-pocked, the weatherboarding was notched with bullet holes and many windows were cracked and broken.

The house was soon overrun with Federal troops. One man, determined to be first to gain an entrance to the cellar (hoping to find the family's food supply) quickly sawed a hole through the floor. He dropped down in the darkness — and into a barrel of soft soap! Years later he stopped at the Beard's and recalled the incident.

"Belmont," located on Rt. 608, just north of New Hope, has been the home of the Samuel Beard family for seven generations. The present owner being Mrs. Esther Beard Howdysshell.

The original building, consisting of four large rooms of log construction, was first begun in 1790-92. After the Civil War



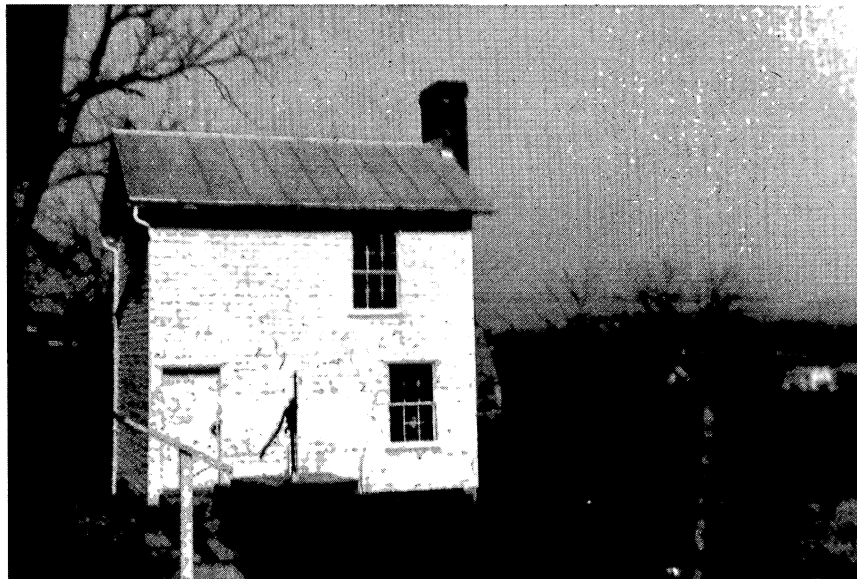
"Belmont." The Beard family home, New Hope, Virginia.
Built 1790-1792.

Photo Courtesy: Beard Family



Detail of hand painted ceiling.

(Photo Courtesy: William Bushman)



Old Wash house.

(Photo Courtesy: William Bushman)

the slave quarters were razed and a new ell built on the east side of the house. The front, with its tall columns, then faced north to a roadway that is now closed. In 1910 when Rt. 608 was constructed, a front on the west side was created by the addition of another porch. The house contains fourteen rooms, with a graceful stairway leading from the first floor to the attic.

Sometime in the 1830's a man whose horse had become lame was forced to stop at Belmont. His name was Robert Green, and when Mr. Beard found he was a church freehand decorator — an art concept much in vogue at that time — he had him decorate their parlor. The walls are a soft blue and the free hand design in reds, gold and blue was done with such precision that the exact center of the room was missed by less than two inches. The colors remain as bright today as when painted nearly a century and a half ago.

Among the prized antiques, accumulated in the family's long tenure, is a heavy walnut bedroom suit. The ornate design of hand carved fruit on the bed, dresser and stand is perfectly duplicated in miniature on the baby bed that has been used by five generations of the Beard family.

Throughout the house the flooring is of the same six inch width and the doors are consistently of crusader design, with many having the original hardware. Each room has its own fireplace, with one of extra size in the dining room. On one side it is flanked by a door leading into the kitchen and on the other a dish closet, where food could be conveniently placed in the kitchen side and removed in the dining room with a minimum of steps and effort.

When old wallpaper was recently removed from one of the rooms, many happenings, activities and facts of past interest had been recorded in pencil on the original paper by some ancestor now long gone.

An old brick chimney on the premises today is all that remains of a government distillery operated here which furnished whiskey for this area. The steel plate, used for stamping the barrels and the stencil — "Whiskey—New Hope, Virginia" are interesting mementos of a business that flourished in the 1880's.

Throughout the years only one ceiling has had to be replaced. This was due to stains from the hams, shoulders and sides hidden during the Civil War period. In 1919 the shingle roof was replaced by one of metal and various modern changes were made in the interior.

Belmont Farm is a proud old home, owned obviously by a long and caring family. It is hoped, in spite of the accelerated tempo of our times, that the present and succeeding generations will always be conscious of their responsibilities in keeping its many traditions alive and in their hearts.

Augusta County Court Proceedings

OVER 200 YEARS AGO

Called Court on Matthew Thorpe for horse stealing from Joseph Pearce of Westmoreland — committed for trial.

Gabrial Jones, Felix Gilbert and Danial Smith inform the Court the smallpox in the natural way is come into this neighborhood within 2 or 3 miles of this plantation. Leave is given to Dr. John McDonald and every other doctor to inoculate the said families or any others in any or what part of the County any person that chooses to be inoculated.

Hugh McGlaughlin having run away, his children, Jane and William, to be bound out.

John Erskine bound over to the Court on complaint of his wife, Elinor. Called Court on John Dunn for larceny — 39 lashes.

Thomas Matthews, confined for selling liquor without a license — prays corporal punishment and release — 20 lashes given.

Charles Campbell, Alexander Moore, William Walker and James Walker were commissioners to have work done at New Providence Church.

Mary Gregory came before the Court and made oath that the Indians came to her home and took from her 4 hogs and 1 cow at value of 11 pounds, 10 shillings, about 5 years ago. They said they were Mingoos. Mrs. Gregory lives at head of Greenbriar.

Christopher Warwick, servant of Joseph Bell, punished for raising a riot in the Court Yard.

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